

AMERICA'S FAVORITE COWBOY

HOPALONG CASSIDY



Starting
this fall,
see him

3 Annual **new**
see him in **2000**
and every **10** 11

HOPALONG CASSIDY

STARRING
WILLIAM BOYD

HOW MANY OF THE 13
OUTLAWS HAVE WE
GOT WITH THIS ONE,
JOE?

6, HOPALONG —
LEAVIN' 5 STILL
TO BE JAILED!



WHY? HOPALONG CASSIDY, FAMOUS WESTERN
SPY OFF, UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED MARSHAL OF A
TOWN HE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF? IT'S A QUES-
TION THAT LEADS TO SPIN-FINOLING, DOUBLE-
ACTION ADVENTURE, AS THE ACE LUNARIN RIDES
ALONE INTO A TOWN THE LAW FORGOT—WITH
ONLY HIS OWN THUNDERING WEAPONS AND
LIGHTNING WIT TO SAVE HIM FROM CUNNING
DEATHTRAPS... SET BY...

The **13 ROBBERS**
OF RIMFIRE RIDGE!

HOPALONG CASSIDY is based on the character created by CLARENCE B. MUIFORD

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HOPALONG CASSIDY



AS THE LEAVING STAGECOACH ROLLS OUT OF REMOTE RIFLE RIDGE ...



IN THE HOME OF GRANDPA GRIDDLE, RIFLE RIDGE'S OLDEST RESIDENT ...



THE STRANGEST SPECIAL ELECTION IN RIFLE RIDGE'S HISTORY FINDS OUTLAW ENCOURAGING HONEST CITIZENS TO ELECT THE WEST'S MOST FAMOUS LARCAN ...



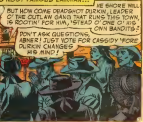
HOWEVER, ROBBERY ISN'T THE MOTIVE FOR THIS 'ACCEPTE' ...



WE'LL TOTE YUH BACK HERE, SOON AS YUH VOTE IN TOWN FOR HOPALONG CASSIDY FOR MARSHAL!



HE SHORE WILL ...





HOPALONG CASSIDY



AND NOBODY'S MORE SURPRISED THAN HOPALONG CASSIDY, RAISED SHERIFF OF TWIN RIVERS, WHEN HE LEARNS ABOUT IT...

RIMFIRE RIDGE? NEVER HEARD OF THE TOWN! AND WHY IN THE WORLD DID THE VOTERS PICK ME?



WHAT HAS LINKED HOPALONG CASSIDY'S DESTINY WITH THE TROUBLED AFFAIRS OF THIS DISTANT TOWN? IT ALL BEGAN THREE DAYS AGO—WHEN ROBBERS' GUNG DEALT DEATH IN A TWIN RIVERS BANK...

I GOT THE SHAB! LET'S GO!

WELL, I MAKE SURE THIS BANK TELLER WON'T START SHOOTIN' SOON AS OUR BACKS ARE TURNED!



SECONDS LATER...

HOLD IT, OR BY NEXT BULLETS SCORCH YOUR WORTHLESS HIPES!

IT'S CASSIDY! NO AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!



THE NEXT DAY, AS DEADSHOT DURKIN GOT THE BAD NEWS IN RIMFIRE RIDGE...

AN BEST MEN, CURLY CLARK AND LEW LOSTY, HELD FOR RUMOR! HE GOT TO GAVE 'ER, BATT!

TWO O' CASSIDY, THE ONLY LIVIN' WITNESS! IF HE DON'T TESTIFY, CURLY AN' LEW'LL SCREE.



BUT CASSIDY'S DANGEROUS! WE CAN'T JUST RIDE TO TWIN RIVERS AN' GUN HIM DOWN!

HE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IF WE COULD FISSER OUT A WAY TO BIT HIM HERE! KERRA... I GOT IT!

BATT, YOU'RE RESIGNIN' AS MARSHAL RIGHT NOW! WE'LL HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION AN' MAKE EVERYBODY VOTE... FOR CASSIDY!

THAT'LL FETCH HIM! AN' WHEN HE GETS HERE, WE'LL FIND! BAD LUCK SPROUTIN' FROM THE GUNG OF ALL THE IS MEMBERS OF OUR GANG!





BOPALONG CASSIDY



NOW, WITH THE ELECTION OVER, DUNKIN' AND HIS DESPERADOES PREPARE FOR CASSIDY'S ARRIVAL BY PISTOL PRACTICE ON MOVABLE, LIFE-LIKE "TARGETS"...

NOW'S THAT I'VE RIGHT THROUGH THE FOREHEAD!

THEIR TARGETS LOOK ALMOST TOO REAL! EVERY TIME I SEE ONE I GET NERVOUS!



HONEST MEN SEE THROUGH DUNKIN'S TREACHERY, BUT ONLY ONE OF THEM IS BOLD ENOUGH TO SAY SO...

IT'S A LOWDOWN TRICK, HITTING CASSIDY HERE TO GET KILLED, DUNKIN--BUT I'M STILL BETTIN' ON HIM!

FISH TALK TOO MUCH, JOE CRAWFORD! SOME DAY I'LL GET RILED AN' PLUS YUH--LIKE THIS!



IN FACT, I GOT A GOOD HAND TO--AND I'VE ANOTHER OF THEM, TARGETS!



SET I BEAT YUH TO THE FIRST SHOT THIS TIME!



ABRUPTLY, AS THE "TARGETS" HANDS SLUR WITH SPEED, THE GANG CHIEF GETS THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE!

WHAT--? THE TARGET'S ALIVE!

IT'S BOPALONG CASSIDY--IN PERSON!



AND AS MARSHAL BOPALONG CASSIDY ISSUES HIS FIRST OFFICIAL WARNING...

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU, DUNKIN! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO ARRESTING YOU AND YOUR BOYS IF THEY EVER STEP OUT OF LINE! SO WATCH IT! UNDERSTAND?

UH--YEAH! I UNDERSTAND, CASSIDY!



CASSIDY, I'M JOE CRAWFORD, AT YOUR SERVICE! YOU MIGHT NEED ME, TOO--CAUSE THERE'S 15 OF 'EM OUT TO KILL YOU!

A LUCKY NUMBER--SINCE I JUST COUNTERED 15 CELLS IN THE CALABOOSE! JOE, I'LL BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU HELP ME FILL 'EM!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



BUT EVEN HOPPY ADMITS: IT'S A BIG ORDER FOR ONE LAWMAN TO FILL 15 CELLS WITH RUTHLESS CRIMINALS WHO'LL BE GUNNING FOR HIM MEANWHILE...

I'VE GOT TO OUTLEGG 'EM, JOE! WHAT DO YOU RECKON THEY'LL TRY FIRST?

A SHOT IN THE BACK, MR. CASSIDY, SOON AS IT'S DARK!



AND PURE ENOUGH, THAT NIGHT...

LOOK AT HIM SITTING THERE IN HIS OFFICE! THIS IS A CINCH!

IT'S ALMOST 700 EASY, IF YOU ASK ME!



IS READY BLISS SHATTER THE WINDOW...

THAT OUGHT TO FINISH HIM!

WHY AIN'T HE FALLIN', THEN?



NOW--? LESSO!

WHY! CASSIDY'S BEHIND US! NOW--? LESSO!



NOW MAYBE YOUR BOSS WILL BELIEVE WHAT I TOLD HIM TODAY!

LOOKS LIKE YUH DON'T NEED ANY HELP FROM ME RIGHT NOW, HOPALONG!



IN THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE, WHERE A BAKESHIRT BURNY THROWS A DECEPTIVE SHADOW ON THE BULLET-RIDDLED BLIND...

THERE'LL FILL UP THE FIRST 3 CELLS-- LEAVIN' ID TO GO!

WE'LL HAVE A FULL HOUSE YET! NOT BY USING DUMMIES FOR BAIT, THOUGH. EVEN LVS DUMMIES AREN'T FOOLED BY THAT TRICK MORE THAN ONCE!





HOPALONG CASSIDY





HOPALONG CASSIDY



**BUT TWO FAILURES MAKE THE OUTLAWS CAUTIOUS!
JUST BEFORE DAWN...**

WHEN CASSIDY COMES OUT,
ONE OF THE 6 OF US IS
BOUND TO GET HIM!

GREAT GUNS—
THEY'RE FIXIN'
AN AMBUSH!



**AS JOE REPORTS WHAT HE HAS
BEEN...**

6 OF 'EM, BARRERS
READY TO THROW LEAD
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS—
AM YOU JUST SIT THERE
ADMIRIN' YOURSELF IN A
LOOKIN' GLASS!

JOE!
THIS ONE
MAY HELP US
FILL UP SOME OF
THOSE EMPTY
CELLS!



**ABRUPTLY, HOPPY SHATTERS THE MIRROR--AND
BEGIN TO THRUST SLIVERS OF BROKEN GLASS
THROUGH THE BRIM OF HIS HAT!**



**WHEN THE MORNING SUN SENDS GOLDEN
RAYS ALONG THE PAVE STREET OF DANGER
FILLED RIFLE RIDGE ...**

WAIT! I'M WALKIN'
WITH YOU!

NO, JOE! THE
ONLY WAY YOU CAN
HELP IS BY FOLLOW-
ING ME AT A SAFE
DISTANCE--WITH
A PAIR OF HAND-
CUFFS!



**SUNLIGHT GLEAMS ON PISTOL
BARRELS AS TWO MEN LEAN
FROM A WINDOW TO SHOOT
THE NEW MARSHAL IN THE
BACK ...**

HE PASSED
BY WITHOUT SEEN' US!



**SUDDENLY, HOPALONG DRAWS
AND FIRES WITHOUT EVEN TURN-
ING HIS HEAD...**

JUST AS I
FIGURED--THEY WAITED TILL I
WAS PASSY TO SHOW THEMSELVES!

WHEW! HE SHOT
THE WINDOW
PROP AWAY!



**AND THE SUNLIGHT
ON THEIR GUNS
FLASHED IN MY
REAR-VIEW
MIRRORS AND
SHOWNED ME
WHERE THEY
WERE!**





THEN TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT...

AND THERE'S TWO MORE!
SO FAR I DIDN'T HAVE TO
DODGE A SINGLE BULLET!



AND HE'S THE
SMARTEST AND
TOUGHEST OF THEM
ALL! I WONDER
WHERE HE IS?



IF I
WASN'T CAREFUL
ABOUT 'EM, JOE, I'D
HAVE BEEN OUT OF
BUSINESS A LONG
TIME AGO!



HOPALONG CASSIDY



FROM A NICHE IN CRAZY CANYON, JUST OUTSIDE GHOST CAVE, DURKIN WATCHES HOPALONG ABOUT TO ENTER TO KEEP THEIR APPOINTMENT...



A MOMENT LATER, THE DYNAMITE IS HURLED INTO THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE...



A SECOND PLOP--TWO SECONDS--THREE--AND THEN...



SUDDENLY TWO SHOTS RING OUT IN RAPID SUCCESSION...





HOPALONG CASSIDY



BUT BEFORE THE 15TH OUTLAW CAN KICK A GUN...

YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT, DURKIN! YOUR ELECTION STUNT TO FREE YOUR PALS IN TRIN RIVERS HAS BACKFIRED--JUST AS YOUR DYNAMITE HUNGER TRAP DID!



NEXT DAY, RIFLE RIDGE ELECTS A NEW MARSHAL BY ACCLARATION...

WHAT IT TAKES, FOLKS! HE WAS THE ONLY MAN IN TOWN WHO CARED TO STAND BY AND HELP ME SOUND UP THOSE IS-TAIL-BIRDS!

HEERAN FOR JOE CRAWFORD--OUR NEW MARSHAL!



SOON, AT THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE --

DURKIN! YUH GOT HIM, CASSIDY!

RIGHT, JOE! IS CELL NUMBER 13 ALL READY FOR HIM!



AND AS HOPALONG HEADS FOR HOME AGAIN...

SORRY TO RUSH AWAY, MARSHAL CRAWFORD--BUT I ONLY TOOK A SHORT LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM MY JOB AT TRIN RIVERS!

I'LL MAKE OUT ALL RIGHT, HOPPY!

YOUR EXAMPLE AN' THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE YOU TAUGHT ME, I RECKON I CAN HANDLE ANY OTHER BAD-HATS THAT MAY SHOW UP HERE!



THE END

LESTER KLEIN

FEARLESS FOSDICK
by Al Capp

EVERYONE MUST BE A DETECTIVE FOSDICK! THE OTHER MUST BE A BUNNY-BUNNY! THE WORLD'S TALLEST GEMERALD!

I'M FOS-DICK

WHAT I'VE GOT YOU HERE, I'VE GOT YOU BY THE NOSE! YOU'RE A BUNNY-BUNNY! ON THE GALAXY THEY SAY WE HADN'T ONE FOSDICK, CAN LIVE IT!

YOU ARE NOT FOSDICK, FOSDICK! TURN IN YOUR BADGE!

TURN IN YOUR HEAD, ANYWAY! YOU'RE NOT ME, BECAUSE I'VE WILDERST CREAM-ON, TO KEEP MY EARS KEAT--BUT YOURS IS A HESS!

GET A H! IF I'D THOUGHT OF WILDERST CREAM-ON, I'D HAVE ACCORD ARREST IT!

YOU COULDN'T ACCORD LOOKS! DANGERS, TOO! SAME HESS FOR YOLLO-CHIE, GET WILDERST CREAM-ON, CHARLIE!

THAT WOULD BE ALL, MR. HESS IS TRULY!





HOPALONG CASSIDY

 STARRING
WILLIAM BOND

I TOLD YOU THAT MEDICINE
WOULD CURE ANYTHING —
INCLUDING THE ITCH TO
ROB FOLKS!

SMASH!

POW!

SHOOH!

POW!

ONE EVENING, AS TWO DISREPUTABLE
CITIZENS OF TWIN RIVERS TALK
SHOP...

WE'RE FLAT
BROKE! SHARK, WE
GOT TO PULL A JOB.
CASSIDY OR NO
CASSIDY!

NEAH, PATCH!
THIS IS MY
LAST FLOOR.
BELLE CIGAR
AN' I GOT TO
GIT MORE SOME-
HOW!

TWO TUBES STALKS TWO STRANGERS IN TWIN RIVERS
WHEN A DIAMOND SALESMAN DIES OF A BANDIT'S
BULLET, AND A QUACK DOCTOR'S "MEDICINE" SHOW
RUNS AFOUL OF THE LAW! BUT OLD "DOC" JONES,
WITH HIS COLORFUL VAN AND HIS LIVELY SHOW-
MANSHIP HELPS HOPALONG CASSIDY TURN HIS
"INDIAN BLUKE" INTO AN AMAZINGLY EFFECTIVE...

MEDICINE MAN MAGIC!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



A PROSPEROUS-LOOKING STRANGER, JUST OFF THE STAGECOACH ASKS A QUESTION...

'SCUSE ME, GENTS! WHERE'LL I FIND SHERIFF HOPALONG CASSIDY? IT'S--**UN-IMPORTANT!**

IMPORTANT, HUH? WELL, NOW, I'LL TELL YUH!



JUST TURN RIGHT AT THE CORNER RISTER, THEN TURN INTO THE ALLEY! YUH CAN'T MISS HUH!

MUCH OBLIGED!



WHY'D YUH GIVE HIM A REDDING STEER, SHANK?

DIDN'T YUH SEE HIM FEELIN' THAT FAT WALLET IN HIS INSIDE POCKET? I FOLLOW ME BETWEEN THESE BUILDIN'S--AN' COVER UP YORE FACE!



MOMENTS LATER...

ROBBERS! HELP!

BLAMED POOL! I WANTED TO DO THIS PEACEFUL! NOW HE'LL EAT LEAD!



LOOK--CASH MONEY AN' DIAMONDS, NORTH PLENTY!

SOMEBODY HEARD YORE SHOT AN' IS RUNNIN' THIS WAY! GET OUT O' SIGHT--QUICK!****



AS IT HAPPENS, TWIN RIVERS' FAMED LAYMAN, HOPALONG CASSIDY, IS THE ONE WHO HEARD THE SHOT! NEXT INSTANT...

A ROBBERY--AND MAYBE MURDER!



DEAD ALL RIGHT! THESE PAPERS SHOW HE'S JOHN ROSS--THE DIAMOND SALESMAN WHO WROTE TO ASK IF HE COULD KEEP HIS DIAMONDS IN MY SAFE WHEN HE CAME HERE! DON'T RECKON HE HAS ANY DIAMONDS NOW, THOUGH!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



BUT ALL TOO SOON SHANK LEARNS THAT THE LARRAR'S RECOVERY HAS BEEN SWIFT...



AND SOME TIME LATER, IN THE SHACK THE TWO KILLERS SHARE...



I DON'T SMOKE! BUT THE VERRIT WHO KILLED AND BOBBED A DIAMOND SALESMAN TONIGHT LEFT A HALF-SMOKED FLORABELLE CIGAR THERE!



THE SEARCH IS THOROUGH--AND DISAPPOINTING...





HOPALONG CASSIDY



NEXT DAY, AS THE KILLERS SEEK DESPERATELY FOR A WAY OUT...

THERE GOES CASSIDY OUT O' TOWN ON SOME BUSINESS, SHANK! CAN'T HE BREAK AWAY NOW?

NOT WITH THE LOOT, STUPID! SOMEBODY'D SEE US! WE'D BE SEARCHED, AN'--BLUOE!



THEN HOW CAN WE EVER CASH IN ON THE DIAMONDS? CASSIDY WON'T LET UP ON US AS LONG AS WE'RE AROUND!

AWH--I'M GETTIN' A IDEA! GEE WHAT'S COMIN' UP THE STREET?



A PEDDLER OF A QUACK CURE-ALL FINDS A CUSTOMER WAITING...

HOLD ON, DOC! LET ME SEE THAT MIRACLE STUFF OF YORE!

ARE YUH LOOE? HOW CAN THAT FELLER'S MEDICINE CURE WHAT AILS US?



MY FIRST CLIENT IN TWELVE YEARS! YOU ARE INDEED FORTUNATE! THIS WONDERFUL POTION ME A CURS, WARTS, LUMBAGO, DOZEN CHINOLUP--

GRIP THE PALMER, AN' GIVE ME A BOTTLE!

AT HOME AGAIN, SHANK PRODUCING THE STOLEN BEING FROM A PLUGGED HOLE IN A CHARR'D STICK OF WOOD IN THE STOVE...

WHY D'YUH WANT ALL OF THEM BOTTLES OPENED? ARE WE GOIN' TO DRINK 'EM ALL AT ONCE?

NO, STUPID! REASON I GOT 12 BOTTLES WAS WE GOT 12 DIAMONDS!

WE'LL PUT A DIAMOND IN EACH BOTTLE, MARK THE BOTTLES, THEN TAKE 'EM BACK--AN' LET DOC CARRY THE LOOT OUT O' TOWN FOR US!

NOW! THE COLORED MEDICINE'LL MAKE THE STONES, AN' WE'LL SHIP THE BOTTLES BACK LATER!



HOPALONG CASSIDY



AT NIGHT, AS TORCHES BLAZE, A LIVELY GONG GATHERS A CROWD AROUND DOC JONES' COLORFUL WAX...



IT CURED MORE WOUNDS ANY FALL BY HAIL, MORE RHEUMATICS ANY COLDS, AN' HARKS THE OLDEST FOLKS IN TOWN FEEL SPRY AS TWO-YEAR-OLDS!

MY ASSISTANT'S TELLING THE TRUTH! ALSO GUN INDIAN ELIXIR IS THE SECRET OF MY ETERNAL YOUTH!



ABRUPTLY, THERE'S A RUDE INTERRUPTION ...

AND NOW, GOOD PEOPLE, BEFORE YOU START RUSHING TO BUY THIS WONDERFUL BOON TO HUMANITY—

JUST A MINUTE, DOC I RE AN' MY PARTNER WANT OUR MONEY BACK LIKE YORE SIGN SAYS!



WE AN'T SATISFIED! WE TRIED THE STUFF, AN'—

SHUSH! NOT SO LOUD, GENTLE-REN! TAKE YOUR MONEY AND GO AWAY—PLEASE!



AND AS THE UNFORTUNATE PEDDLER STARTS HIS SPIEL AGAIN...

AN, AN! JUST A HARMLESS JOKE, FOLKS! NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, THIS AMAZING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY—

NOT SO FAST, DOC JONES! YOU'RE IN THE WRONG TOWN!



HOPALONG CASSIDY PUTS A PERMANENT STOP TO THE PROCEEDINGS ...

TWIN RIVERS HAS A LAW AGAINST MEDICINE PEDDLING, SO YOU'D BETTER CLEAR OUT OF TOWN PRONTO!

THAT'S TOO BAD, SHERIFF! IMAGINE HAVING A LAW TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM BENEFITTING BY AN MIRACULOUS CURE-ALL! GUESS I'D BETTER HURRY UP!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



NOT UNTIL THE SUSPECTS ARE RIDING AWAY DOES HOPALONG HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER...



AN HOUR LATER, AS DOC JONES' HEAVY TEAM FLOODS UP GRAYBACK RIDGE, TEN MILES FROM TOWN...



BUT NO SOONER HAS SHANK ENTERED THE INN WHEN...



A SECOND LATER...





HOPALONG CASSIDY



TURNED, HOPALONG IS FORCED TO DISMOUNT, TURN HIS BACK, AND RAISE HIS HANDS! THEN...

DON'T MOVE IF YUH WANT TO STAY ALIVE, CASSIDY! DID I GIT THE RIGHT BOTTLES, PATCH?



THEY GOT THE MARKS WE PUT ON 'EM, ALL RIGHT!

AN' LOOK--YUH CAN SEE THE DIAMONDS SPARKLE AGAINST THE LIGHT!

BLAMED IF YUH CAN'T!

SOUNDS AS IF THEY'RE BUSY ENOUGH NOT TO BE WATCHING ME PICK UP THIS STONE!



BEFORE THE STARTLED KILLERS KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING--HOPALONG WHIRLS AND THROWS THE STONE...

BULL'S-EYE! THE MEDICINE'S GOING RIGHT INTO SHANK'S HOLSTER!

BLAST YUH, CASSIDY--I'LL FIX YUH FOR THAT! I GOT A GUN, AN' THAT'S MORE'N YOU GOT!



HIS--E IT'S TOO HOT TO SHOOT!

I MOVED SOME OF DOC'S MEDICINE IN YOUR HOLSTER MIGHT CURE YOUR PISTOL OF THE BAD HABIT OF KILLING FOLKS!



AND I FIGURE THE DIAMONDS IN THOSE BOTTLES WILL END MY WORRIES ABOUT LAST NIGHT'S MURDER!

MAYBE A TASTE O' THEM WILL CHANGE YORE MIND, CASSIDY!



YOU TRY THEM FIRST, PATCH!





THE HOLYBROOK COUNTRY



THE
HOLYBROOK
COUNTRY





HOPALONG CASSIDY



WOOA, TOPPER!

THEY GOT CLEAN AWAY, HOPPY!
YUH'LL NEVER CATCH 'EM IF YUH HAVE
TO GO AROUND BY THE OTHER BRIDGE!

BLAM!

HERE'S ONE THAT
WPN'T EXPLODE! I'LL
TAKE CARE OF THAT!

WHAT
GOOD'S
IT GOIN'
TO DO TO
BLOW UP THE
REST OF THE
BRIDGE?

AND A MOMENT LATER...

GREAT JUMPIN'
HORNED TOADS!
BLAMED IF HE
DIDN'T BLOW
HIMSELF UP!

BLAM!

HOPPER FAR FROM BEING
HARMED BY THE EXPLOSION.

HOPALONG'S
RIGHT AFTER
US ON A HUNK
OF TIMBER!
NOW--!

THE SAME
WAY A BULL-
LET TRAVELS
WITH A
CHARGE OF
POWER BE-
HIND IT!

IT'S AN AMAZING CAPTURE--EVEN
THOUGH IT HAPPENED ONLY IN THE
YIMP IMAGINATION OF YOUNG
SCHOOLBOY, TOMMY HART...

NO! A! HOPPY COULD
DO THAT, OR ANY-
THING ELSE HE
SET HIS MIND
TO!

WE ALL
KNOW THAT
SHERIFF
CASSIDY'S A
FINE MAN, THOUGH,
BUT AFTER ALL, HE'S
ONLY HUMAN! TRY TO
MAKE YOUR COMPO-
SITIONS MORE REAL-
ISTIC AFTER THIS!

HORROR! TOMMY'S TEACHER
THE ONLY ONE WHO FINDS
THE STORY UNBELIEVABLE
AT RECESS...

...AND SO ONCE AGAIN
HOPALONG CASSIDY
PROVED THAT HE'S THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
LAWMAN!

ER--DON'T
YOU THINK
YOUR STORY
IS A LITTLE
FAIR-FETCHED
THOUGH?

NO, NO! IMAGINE
ANYBODY USING
AN EXPLOSION
TO TRAVEL!
HA, HA!

SURE,
NOBODY
ELSE IN
THE WORLD
COULD DO IT--
EXCEPT HOA-
LONG CASSIDY!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



THEN, AS HOPALONG HIMSELF HAPPENS BY...

DID I HEAR MY NAME MENTIONED? AND WHY ARE ALL YOU YOUNGSTERS PICKING ON TOMMY?

IT'S ON ACCOUNT OF THIS STORY I WROTE ABOUT YOU. I MADE IT UP, BUT I'LL BET YOU COULD CATCH ROBBERS THAT WAY! COULDN'T YOU, HOPPY?



AND AS THE LANNAN LEAVES...

FUNNY, NOW A KID'S WHOD IMAGINATION CAN SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS! WELL, NOW TO SEE IF I CAN PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THOSE EXPRESS BANDITS AROUND THE OLD BADLANDS RINE!



HEH...AN INTERESTING IDEA, TOMMY...AND I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND! COULD BE SORT OF ROUGH ON ME, THOUGH!

DON'T WORRY! YOU COULD DO IT, HOPPY! YOU COULD DO ANYTHING!



LATER, WHERE AN ABANDONED RINE LIES IN AN OFF-TRAIL SECTION OF THE BADLANDS, TWO OUTLAW SEE A LONE RIDER APPROACHING THEM...

IT'S CASSIDY! WHAT'LL WE DO--RUN FOR IT?

DON'T BE A SAPI! HE'S ALL ALONE--IT'S OUR CHANCE TO GET RID O' HIM FOR GOOD!



AND AS HOPPY REACHES THE DESOLATE SCENE...

NO SIGN OF LIFE--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN NOBODY'S AROUND!

HE DOESN'T SEE THE HODGE WE PLANTED ON THE GROUND!



SUDDENLY, AS THE OUTLAW PULLS BACK ON THE ROPE...

HEY! GOT HIM! QUICK--TIE HIM UP WHILE I KEEP HIM COVERED!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



BOUMP HAND AND FOOT, THE CAPTIVE IS CARRIED TO THE OLD KINE SHAFT-- WHERE--

DOWN YUH GO, CASSIDY--WITH THIS POWDER-KEG TIME BOMB FIRED TO GO OFF IN EXACTLY THREE MINUTES!

ALL I PLANNED TO DO WAS SEND YOU #AMERIKS TO PRISON FOR A FEW YEARS--BUT YOU SEEM DEAD SET ON HANGING!

AS THE ROPE IS CUT, LETTING HIM FALL THE LAST FEW FEET--

WHEN THE EXPLOSION CAVEES IN THE SHAFT, CASSIDY, NOBODY'LL EVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YUH!



THE TICKING TIME BOMB RECALLS TOMMY'S FANTASTIC STORY--AND THIS TIME HOPALONG'S BRAIN, SHARPENED BY DANGER, WORKS FAST--

IF ONLY I COULD USE THAT POWDER-KEG TO BLAST MYSELF OUT OF HERE, AS TOMMY FIGURED I COULD! AHA... THAT LOOSE BOARD AND THOSE TIMBERS... I WONDER--



CLUMBSILY HE TESTS THE JUTTING BOARD, AND FINDS THAT IT BENDS--

IT'S SPRINGY UP TO A POINT--BUT CAN I BEND IT FAR ENOUGH WITHOUT BREAKING IT?



TWO MINUTES, AT LEAST, HAVE PASSED BEFORE HE STARTS TO WORK THE DEADLY KEG ONTO THE END OF THE PLANK--

IT WOULD BE EASY IF MY HANDS WERE FREE--BUT I'VE GOT TO DO IT THE HARD WAY!



AND AS SECONDS TICK AWAY IN A SINISTER RHYTHM--

NOT TO GUESS THE TIME TO THE SPLIT SECOND, THEN ROLL OFF THIS PLANK IN A HURRY--AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!





HOPALONG CASSIDY



THEN, WITH A SUDDEN BACKWARD MOVEMENT...

NEXT INSTANT...

THERE IT GOES!
IF I'VE JUDGED THE TIME RIGHT,
IT SHOULDN'T EXPLODE TILL IT
CLEARS THE OPENING OF THE SHAFT!



AS SHATTERED TIMBERS OF THE TOWER PLUNGE
INTO THE SHAFT...

RAILS STICKING OUT OF
SOME OF THOSE CHUNKS! I COULDN'T ASK
FOR ANYTHING BETTER TO GET RID OF THESE
ROPES!



PEEK! CLIMBING THE TIMBERED
SIDES OF THE SHAFT WILL BE EASY!



DON'T FORGET TO THANK TOMMY HART
FOR SAVING MY LIFE! THAT BOMB BLASTED
ME OUT OF THIS TRAP! ALL RIGHT--EVEN IF
IT WORKED A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN
HE FIGURED!



IN THEIR HIDEOUT 'SHACK, THE OUTLAW
CONGRATULATE THEMSELVES AS THE
BOOBS OF THE BLAST DIE AWAY...

THAT'S THE
END OF
CASSIDY!

YEAH! WE'LL HAVE SMOOTH
SAILIN' FROM NOW ON!





SUDDENLY, AS THE SHACK DOOR IS CRASHED OPEN...

CRASH!



CASSIDY! BUT... BUT YOU'RE DEAD!



DEAD? LOOKS LIKE I'M THE LIVEST NOBBLE AROUND HERE JUST NOW!

SOCK!



PRESENTLY, AS SCHOOL LETS OUT FOR THE DAY BACK IN TWIN RIVERS...

HOPPY! YOU CAUGHT THE EXPRESS BANDITS! BUT HOW--?

SO ON, YOU TWO--TELL TOMMY HOW I CAPTURED YOU!



BLAMED IF HE DON'T USE A BOMB HE MADE TO BLOW HIMSELF CLEAR OUT OF A MINE SHAFT WHERE HE'D TRAPPED HIM!

BOLLY! YOU MEAN--? YOU'RE NOT FOOLING?



NO FOOLING, TOMMY! WHEN THEY CAUGHT ME, I REMEMBERED YOUR STORY-- AND IT INSPIRED ME TO USE THE EXPLOSION TO CATCH THEM!

I WAS RIGHT AFTER

ALL! I JUST KNEW YOU COULD DO IT, HOPPY!



AND SO BOTH TOMMY AND HIS FAVORITE LAMAR HAD THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT A GOOP STORY WAS COME TRUE, AFTER A FASHION...

WELL, FELLOWS-- GUY ANYTHING TO SAY?

SOB, TOMMY-- I'M SORRY HE LAUGHED AT YOU! NOBBLERS CASSIDY CAN DO ANYTHING!



THE END